

Harting Primary School Newsletter



Message from the Head

I recently read an article in the Times Educational Supplement that research informs us that for children 'to flourish in school, there is no better platform than sustained daily reading with their parents'. The article refers to reading to children, rather than hearing them read, but we know that both make a substantial difference to their progress.

We would like, therefore, to encourage you to continue to support your children in these ways. Part of what is good about reading with children is the build-up of vocabulary. In the USA, a study revealed that if an adult reads just one picture book a day to a child there is exposure to 78,000 words a year. There was a difference of approximately 290,000 words between those children who had one story a day, and those who don't, by the time children reach pre-school.

This research stresses the importance of reading and its value. Increasingly, educationalists are becoming aware of the part that conversations about experiences, books, films, TV, etc also have on children's learning. Knowledge, even if secondhand through film/reading, affects children's outcomes positively. So, if you talk to your children a lot and read with them, you are contributing massively to their knowledge bank. This in turn, will help them to access learning. Thank you for all your 'work' with your children - it makes a real difference!

Best wishes,

Fiona

Secondary schools

We are delighted to have had meetings with staff from the local secondary schools to help us prepare the children for their transfer. Last week, teachers from both Midhurst Rother College (MRC) and The Petersfield School visited. Claudine Clarke, our Beacon teacher, has also spent time at MRC considering maths and literacy to help to link the primary and secondary curriculum. We think this will be advantageous to the children. The next step will be for the children to visit their new schools for a taster day, which we are sure that they will enjoy

Sport at MRC

During the year, the older children have been to a range of sports events held each month at MRC. Last week, there was a cricket tournament - our team came third. We are delighted too that Harting has come third overall for all the tournaments, which is really impressive especially as we are one of the smaller schools. Well done to all the children who have participated. Thanks should also go to Nigel Gardner and Claudine Clarke who have worked hard so that the children are well prepared.

Sue Broadhead should also be mentioned as she works tirelessly, in the office, on liaison and arranging transport, etc so that the children can attend. We are really grateful to her.

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'Love others as yourself'
Worship Theme: Images of God

Holidays - a little nag/ information

Some families are taking holidays in term time, which I quite understand. Term-time breaks are significantly cheaper but this is something we, as a staff, are not afforded either!

The school, however, is unable to authorise holiday, unless there are extenuating circumstances (see policy on website). When families do take extended periods of time away, this has an impact on the holidaying children's learning and their classmates - they often need additional tutoring to catch up on their return.

This term, those who have been away on holiday have missed preparation for SATs; made it difficult to gather evidence of children's abilities for national assessment; and enforced rushed national phonic testing for a child. It also has an impact on the staff who struggle to prove that the children's learning and progress have been good - they hate pressurising children to 'perform' in a short time.

I don't like to nag or be punitive but I have decided to refer absences, over a certain length of time, for a penalty fine. This will commence in September and is something I have not done before. I therefore request that you avoid taking your children out of school.

To help, I will continue to let you know of inset days early and, where possible, use them to lengthen holidays. I cannot always do this because it often depends on training providers' availability but I will try.

We do appreciate those who resist the temptation to have a cheap break and that most families go away in the school holidays - thank you.

Torberry study at the river bank

Last Thursday, Torberry class braved the foul weather and enjoyed a trip to the river at Woolbeding. We are hugely grateful to the support of the National Trust warden, Fiona Scully, she is very knowledgeable about the environment and she made the visit so interesting for the children. Working with Fiona is such a privilege - she also works with us at our Forest School.

Parish church

Since the death of the rector, Mark, I have met with Emma Daeth who is a deacon in Harting. She also practices as a nurse in Petersfield as well as leading within the church. There will soon be a service that Mark had authorised (influenced by the offer of trifle and cake afterwards) that children might like to attend: a pet's service. It will be held on Saturday, 13th July at 3pm and children are welcome to bring pets or fluffy soft toys, if the family don't have a real one! Tea and cake are definitely scheduled too!



Sports day

Oh, to be able to forecast the weather accurately! It is just impossible to make the 'right' choice where our climate is concerned! I was so aware that it is a special time for parents as well as children so thank you for joining us on our warm but soggy session.

What a wonderful afternoon of teamwork we saw both from children and adults. We are particularly grateful to Nigel Gardner who prepared and ran the activities - despite the brollies, it proved to be fun. Many thanks too to the PTFA for the cream tea

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and children's ice lollies. Everyone's efforts made it a lovely afternoon.

Downlands farm visit

This week Downlands class have been to Manor Farm where the poor weather did not hinder their enjoyment. Ask the children what they learned - there was plenty to do. Highlights included herding the sheep; feeding the animals; and revving the tractor!

Beacon to Uppark

Beacon pupils popped up to Uppark this week. Having created bat boxes, they went to see the outside environment - something they loved, despite the rain. The visit to the house was also thoroughly enjoyed by the children, some of whom demonstrated high levels of interest by interrogating the stewards!

Key dates for your diary

Note: Inset days; PTFA events; new dates/ information added to calendar

Sharing assemblies are for all families to attend, if they wish. No y1 assembly due to Forest School

Holiday dates for 2018/19	
We respectfully ask that you log the dates of the school calendar in your diaries as legislation does not permit us to authorise leave unless there are exceptional circumstances. You are therefore asked to take family breaks in school holidays only. The school website has the Absence policy, should you need clarification.	
21.6.19	INSET DAY
23.7.19	Last day of school year
24.7.19	Summer holiday starts
Holiday dates for 2019/2020	
02.9.19	INSET DAY
03.09.19	INSET DAY
04.09.19	First day of Autumn Term
25.10.19	INSET DAY
28.10.19 to 01.11.19	October Half Term
04.11.19	INSET DAY
23.12.19 to 03.01.20	Christmas Holidays
17.02.20 to 21.02.20	February Half Term
06.04.20 to 17.04.20	Easter Holidays
08.05.20	May Bank Holiday - FRIDAY
25.05.20 to 29.05.20	May Half Term
21.07.20 to 02.09.20	Summer holidays

Key events for Summer term

Summer Term 2019		
Week beginning: 17.6.19		
21.6.19		INSET DAY -
Week Beginning 24.6.19		
25.6.19	2.30pm	New yR storytime
28.6.19	All day	Rounders tournament
	All day	Y1 - Forest school
Week beginning		
1.7.19	Lunch	New yR visit for lunch
2.7.19	pm	Leavers' service at Cathedral
5.7.19	pm	Y1 - Forest school
		Sharing assembly: Downlands, Beacon
Week beginning 8.7.19		
9.7.19	Am	Y3 swimming
10.7.19	am	Y3 swimming
	Am	RV Heads
	Pm	<i>Dress rehearsal school production</i>
11.7.19	am	Y3 swimming
	6pm	School production
12.7.19	am	Y3 swimming
	Pm	'Bump up' afternoon
	6pm	School production
Week Beginning 15.7.19 (y6 activity week)		
15.7.19	Am	Y3 Swimming
	Am	Bikeablity y6
16.7.19		NO Swimming
	am	Bikeablity y6
	pm	Y6 take over afternoon (teaching e-safety)
17.7.19	Am	Y3 Swimming
	Am	Bikeablity y6
	Pm	Y6 Sports afternoon
	3.30pm	CPD meeting
18.7.19	Am	Y3 Swimming
	Am	Bikeablity y6
	1pm	Luncheon club: Warren class
	pm	Y6 Forest School (tbc)
	Pm	Year 6 sleepover
19.7.19	Am	Y3 Swimming
	Pm	Y6 Forest School (finish 4pm- tbc)
	Eve	Open mic
Week Beginning 22.7.19		
22.7.19	10am	Whole school walk and picnic
23.7.19	11am	Leavers' service
		Last day of school year
24.7.19		Summer holiday starts

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